

Shudy Camps Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my ‘Looking Back’ column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete ‘Cambridgeshire Scrapbook’ of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1898 09 21

An inquest was held at Cardinal's Green, Shudy Camps, touching the death of a child of seven years. Her mother said the child had complained of sickness. For dinner she had beef, pudding and potatoes and drank water fetched from a pond in the garden. It was the only water supply for drinking purposes in that part of the parish. There was no pump, well, or other supply of water. Doctor Jones said that the water was most dangerous, full of injurious microbes, and ought never to be used, even for washing domestic utensils, without being first boiled. Linton district council were told they should take immediate steps to cause a good supply of water to be effected

1908 02 07

Linton magistrates heard of a disorder at Chequers, Shudy Camps where some furniture had been removed from the pub and carted away next day. The landlord, who was a single man, had introduced as his housekeeper an unsuitable young single women. This gave rise to some family difference. There had been frequent quarrels between the landlord and landlady at the Cross Keys, Sawston and the landlord of the Bell at Balsham had not prevented excessive drinking. 08 02 07g

1908 02 07

The Ram beerhouse, Balsham, had existed previous to 1869, justices heard. There was a taproom, bar, kitchen, living-room and grocer's shop as well as four bedrooms. The back staircase and the stable roof was in bad repair. The tenant did a trade of about a dozen barrels of beer and six dozen bottled ale and stout a week. The population was 780 and there were five other fully-licensed pubs and three beer houses including the Five Ales. The licence was temporarily renewed. also Cherry Tree, Sawston Chequers, Shudy Camps, Bell at Balsham, George & Dragon, Castle Camps, White Hart, Linton. 08 02 07

1910 02 04

The Chequers public house, Shudy Camps stood on a side road at the Horseheath end of the village. There was a house on the main road within about half-a-mile and only 18 private houses near. The pub was in good order, having been rebuilt 10 years ago. It sold a barrel of beer a week and had no spirit licence. It was not required, police told magistrates. They also objected to the George and Dragon at Linton, a beerhouse off the main thoroughfare. There was no trade done there, they were simply selling off stock. The Crown was about 130 yards away. also: Pampisford brewery and problems with pubs at West Wickham, West Wratting, Ickleton with note on number of pubs in each village. 10 02 04 I & j & k

1910 07 01

Pampisford Brewery off licence. Chequers Shudy Camps, George & Dragon Linton – 10 02 04j Licences for: Bassingbourn Beerhouse in the fen, Meldreth Green Man, Fulbourn Coach & Horses, Chesterton White Horse, Cottenham Boot, Fen Drayton Horse & Gate, Longstanton Red Cow, Milton Three Tuns, Shelford King William IV, Shudy Camps Chequers, Linton George & Dragon. Cambridge Star & Garter Petty Cury, Cardinal's Cap, Crown & Anchor, Borough Boys, Ship, Merry Boys, Prince Albert, Oxford – all refused. Melbourn White Lion & Swavesey Little Rose renewed 10 07 01 & a

1913 05 09

Election meetings, Linton, Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, Soham, Fordham, Newmarket , Fen Ditton etc

1920 01 07

Rats killed. Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631). Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225),

Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186). Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236). Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422). Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313). Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105) Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1933 09 06

Converted bus in Quy accident & Shudy Camps water shortage photo – 33 09 06

1937 08 25

An attempt by an insurgent force to cut the railway at Bartlow Station saw rifle battalions attack on a wide front. A small British machine gun battalion took up a position on the west bank of the River Stour while soldiers demolished bridges to prevent the attackers occupying the high ground at Shudy Camps and Horseheath. Villagers had a fine time watching the ponderous tanks pass by and comparing them with the guns and beautiful horses of the 1912 manoeuvres. It was part of the military exercise simulating that in Egypt before the latest Anglo-Egyptian treaty. 37 08 25

1937 08 27

Tanks featured in the opening attack on Haverhill under cover of a smoke screen. An assault via the Bumpsteads was held up so the advance swung westwards past Shudy Camps towards the Bartlow railway. Late in the afternoon an enveloping movement was successful. Street fighting and sniping was expected and the infantry was served out with an extra supply of hand grenades. The inhabitants thronged the centre of Haverhill eager to see the activity of the military manoeuvres 37 08 27a

1937 08 31

The premise behind the military manoeuvres was that production of a new lethal gas was about to start in two underground factories at Yole and Barsey Farm near Balsham and Shudy Camps. Different essentials of the gas were to be made at each factory so destruction of either would prevent production. There was a large influx of visitors to the church parade at Shudy Camps Park where 400 men from various regiments had assembled for the training exercise. Afterwards a band concert was greatly enjoyed. 37 08 31

1937 09 02

A notable improvement in the arrangements for feeding the troops is apparent during the exercises at Shudy Camps. The old travelling cookers, used for the first time at the 1912 manoeuvres, have disappeared and in their place are oil-fuelled cookers on which the food is prepared. After about 20 minutes it is sufficiently cooked to be placed in metal chests made on the principle of the hay-box known to housewives during the Great War where the rest of the cooking goes on until complete. The filled boxes are loaded on to troop carriers and taken to the troops where it is kept piping hot until dished out ‘done to a turn’ 37 09 02

1937 09 04

The Army manoeuvres now taking place locally should have a beneficial effect on recruiting. The introduction of the motor into all branches of the service has rendered the soldier’s task much less toilsome and robbed the march of its old-time discomforts. The present-day Tommy is better provided for and looked after, better fed and more comfortably clothed. Recruits for the three battalions of the 5th Infantry Brigade now in camp at Shudy Camps Park are coming in steadily. It is expected that a further 100 will soon be ready at Aldershot and will probably also be sent there 37 09 04b

1938 06 08

Col Thornton, Shudy Camps Park dies 38 06 08e

1938 12 02

Charles Wright of Shudy Camps paid the price of active service in the Great War 20 years after the Armistice when he collapsed and died at his home. He had served in Salonika and afterwards suffered from malaria. His colleagues in the British Legion pulled the old-fashioned bier carrying his coffin draped with a Union Jack along the road which winds to the church. The cortege was preceded by the Legion standard fluttering bravely in a stiff breeze which sang through the leafless trees. Since the death of Canon Thornton the church has had no minister 38 12 02

1938 12 29

Canon Thornton's will, Shudy Camps - 38 12 29a

1941 03 29

Diamond Wedding.—Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Ager, of Nosterfield End Shudy Camps, celebrated their diamond wedding on Wednesday. They were married in the parish church on March 26, 1881, by the late Rev. William Joy, who was for 35 years vicar of the parish. They have 13 children, 74 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. They were the recipients of many good wishes.

1943 10 29

Golden Wedding.—Mr and Mrs Albert Weeden, of Heydon, celebrated their golden wedding on Thursday of last week. They were married at the parish church at Shudy Camps on October 21, 1893. Mr. Weeden is 79 and Mrs. Weeden 69. Mr. Weeden, a retired blacksmith, has just completed 24 years as secretary of the local branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union. His health has been quite good until just recently. The couple have lived in Heydon for 32 years, and have five sons and two daughters. One son served 28 years in the Navy, and another in the Army was partially disabled in the Great War. A third son is a local coach proprietor, All the family were able to meet on Sunday to celebrate the occasion.

1952 05 13

Shudy Camps' bright clean, one-roomed school, which houses 20 children, means a lot to the inhabitants. They have a good teacher in Doris Edwards but no mains water supply. Now it may close with the pupils sent to Castle Camps. But with four new council houses and two more being built there will be more children. In these modern days you must have community spirit. Take the school away and what focal point is left? Just the church and the pub. 52 05 13 &a -b

1961 06 30

With taxation problems and death duties many stately homes are being turned into business premises. Abington Hall was a private residence for a Mr Bertrand who surrendered it to the Army during the War, it is now the British Welding Research Association. Lord Inchcape left Chesterford Park in 1918; it became a Jewish Home for Incurable and is now Fison's Pest Control research centre. The mansion at Shudy Camps houses thousands of chickens having been acquired by Lyddite Chicks in 1949 - 61 05 30d also Madingley Hall, Milton Hall, Wimpole Hall, Babraham Hall belongs to the Agricultural Research Council # c.61 06 30d

1962 07 30

Shudy Camps School is closing after 100 years and the retiring headmistress, Mrs D.K. Edwards was presented with a silver tea service. She could look back over her 35 years teaching with pride. She had sought no promotion but been content to stay in this excellent little school in this excellent little village providing a wise and kindly guidance to the many children who had passed through her care. No other teacher had served so long. A few years ago proposals to close the school brought a storm of protest but now improvements have been made at Castle Camps school and the children will go there 62 07 30a

1963 01 21

Cambridge police station was turned into a temporary boarding home to accommodate 15 teenagers and servicemen people cut off by the blizzard from their country homes. They had been to the cinema

and dances, then found roads blocked by snow. The W.V.S. sent blankets. One of the guests was Derek Welstead of Shudy Camps Park who had to walk home across fields. Snow ploughs have been called in and many of the men laid off by building firms have helped clear roads. Hatley and Odsey schools were closed because they were cut off by snow drifts and others because of frozen water mains and lavatories 63 01 21b & 25

1965 07 08

Castle Camps School was packed as over 100 villagers turned up to support the newly-formed Castle Camps and Shudy Camps Residents Association. It was formed so they could air grievances over the way South Cambs RDC used every trick to suppress publication of controversial details about proper and adequate drainage. Bartlow Road council houses have to empty their sewage into an open ditch which could lead to paratyphoid. The parish council chairman should resign. 63 06 01a
Shudy Camps church vandalised – 65 07 08b

1974 09 06

The leader of a Buddhist sect, based at Shudy Camps returned after a month's absence to find himself locked out of the house he set up as a temple. The door was padlocked and barricaded. The sect leader, former London bricklayer who became known as the Rev Nagaboshi Tomio, said that shrines had been stacked away, religious paintings on the walls whitewashed over, the house was decorated and a family were living there. He founded the Kongoru-Ji meditation centre in the old Three Horseshoes public house last October

1981 10 02

Forty firemen tackled a blaze which caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to the 300-year-old country mansion, Shudy Camps Park. It is divided into six maisonettes, normally occupied by eight or ten people. The owner of the house, who lives in the grounds, said one flat has been completely destroyed and others damaged by water. It would be a big loss to the village as two large rooms on the ground floor were used as the village hall. 81 10 02b

1983 02 17

Shudy Camps Hall, an imposing elegant home, is for sale. The main part of the house has 15 bedrooms, with five more in the south wing and eight in the Tudor wing. The drawback is that it was badly damaged by fire and needs substantial repairs, including the replacement of large parts of the roof. It also needs modernising. But at £55,000 it makes a very interesting investment. 83 02 17a

1986 08 08

Shudy Camps Park is to be turned into a research clinic by an Indian guru. Sri Mataji Nirmala Devi, whose name means Holy Mother, is claimed to be a saint with miraculous power to cure the sick and dying. She has tens of thousands of followers in India but only 14 disciples in this country. Patients suffering a variety of illnesses will be taught Sahaja Yoga and their condition monitored 86 08 08a

1986 12 23

Valuable silver ornaments stolen from Shudy Camps church have mysteriously turned up at Eltisley church. Thieves who broke into the 13th-century St Mary's church in September raided the safe and made off with a Victorian chalice and paten, both in solid silver, along with a silver and mother-of-pearl baptismal shell, together worth £1,000. They were left in Eltisley church porch with a note saying 'Please return to Shudy Camps. Bought in Error'. It is a lovely Christmas present for the village 86 12 23

1987 08 10

Shudy Camps Park House, a 300-year-old mansion, has become a place of worship attracting followers of an Indian guru revered as a saint with miraculous healing powers. Several hundred disciples descended on the village from all over Europe for a party with hymn singing and preaching into the early hours. There were five marquees, catering wagons and portable toilets. Buses, coaches and cars choked the lane and on the gate was a poster declaring it as 'The New Jerusalem'. Now

villagers have organised a petition claiming the mansion has been converted from a private dwelling to a place of entertainment without planning permission. 87 08 10a

1988 04 05

Followers of an Indian guru have angered villagers by holding a 500-strong gathering at Shudy Camps Park House. The Elizabeth mansion was bought as a private residence by Mrs Sri Vastava, wife of the Secretary-General of the UN International Maritime Organisation, who is said by her tens of thousand followers to have miraculous healing powers. It is used as a research clinic for treating illnesses with Sahaja Yoga. But no planning laws have been broken and she holds such large gatherings only once or twice a year 88 04 05a

1988 11 23

Angry residents want councillors to clamp down on the followers of an Indian guru who pour into the village for special gatherings. Shudy Camps Park House, a 330-year-old mansion, was bought by the wife of the Secretary General of the U.N. International Maritime Organisation who some regard as a saint with miraculous powers to cure the sick and dying. Her followers use it as a clinic for treating illnesses with sahaja yoga. Locals claim music, chanting and incantations have been played over loudspeakers until early in the morning. 88 11 23b